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Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SR-02

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6513

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, TH, CB
SUBJ: RTG POLICY ON REFUGEES FROM CAMBODIA

SUMMARY. ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 14, 1975, IN A MEETING BETWEEN THAI AND US OFFICIALS, GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES WERE AGREED UPON REGARDING PERSONS EVACUATED BY THE USG FROM CAMBODIA. THE RTG IS COOPERATING IN THE CARE AND PROCESSING OF THE REFUGEES BUT WISHES THEM MOVED ON FROM THAILAND AND RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. THE US IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CARE AND ONWARD MOVEMENT OF ALL PERSONS IT EVACUATED ON USG AIRCRAFT OR US CHARTER FLIGHTS. THE PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES AGREED UPON WERE TO BE PRESENTED TO THE THAI CABINET FOR ITS APPROVAL. END SUMMARY.

1. ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 14, 1975, A MEETING WAS HELD AT SUPREME COMMAND HEADQUARTERS (FORWARD) TO DISCUSS THE CARE AND DISPOSITION OF PERSONS EVACUATED FROM CAMBODIA BY THE USG. THE MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY MAJOR GENERAL THUANTHONG OF SUPREME COMMAND HEADQUARTERS (FORWARD). THE ACTING DCM OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY REPRESENTED THE USG. MR. THEP THEWAKUN ATTENDED FOR THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ALSO PRESENT WERE THAI OFFICIAL FROM IMMIGRATIONS, CUSTOMS, BASE OPERATIONS AND SUPREME COMMAND HEADQUARTERS (FORWARD).

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2. FOLLOWING THE OPENING STATEMENTS THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DIS-CUSSION, MUCH OF IT AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND DETAILS. OUT

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OF THE DISCUSSION THERE EMERGED AGREEMENT UPON THE FOLLOWING:

A. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE USG EXTENDS ONLY TO THOSE PERSONS EVACUATED FROM CAMBODIA ON USG AIRCRAFT OR AIRCRAFT CHARTERED BY THE USG. WITH RESPECT TO THESE PERSONS, THE USG WILL ASSURE THEIR CARE AND ONWARD TRAVEL FROM THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND.

B. THE RTG WILL ALLOW THE USG AN INITIAL PERIOD OF 30 DAYS FROM THEIR DATE OF ARRIVAL TO PROCESS EVACUEES (EXCEPT TCNS) AND MOVE THEM ON FROM THAILAND; BUT SHOULD THIS PERIOD NOT BE SUFFICIENT THE RTG WILL CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY TO EXTEND THIS PERIOD.

C. EVACUEES MAY BE DIVIDED INTO THREE CATEGORIES FOR WHICH THE FOLLOWING POLICIES WILL APPLY:

1) DIPLOMATS. THIRD-COUNTRY DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL OTHER THAN KHMER EVACUATED TO THAILAND FROM CAMBODIA SHOULD DEAL THROUGH THEIR OWN EMBASSIES WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THAI IMMIGRATIONS. THE USG HAS NO FURTHER RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM.

2) NON-KHMER EVACUEES. CITIZENS OF COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CAMBODIA WHO WERE EVACUATED FROM CAMBODIA BY THE USG SHOULD BE MOVED OUT OF THAILAND IMMEDIATELY, SINCE THEY HAVE PASSPORTS AND COUNTRIES TO WHICH THEY CAN RETURN. (THOSE WHO WISH TO RETURN TO THAILAND CAN APPLY THROUGH REGULAR IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES.) NON-KHMER EVACUEES' INITIAL VISAS SHOULD NOT BE EXTENDED. IN THE CASE OF THOSE WHOSE INITIAL 7-DAY VISA MAY HAVE ALREADY EXPIRED BY THE TIME OF THEIR DEPARTING, THE US EMBASSY SHOULD PREPARE A LETTER TO THAI IMMIGRATION ASKING THAT THE PERSONS IN QUESTION BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. THAI IMMIGRATION WILL PERMIT THIS WITH NO PENALTY TO THE PERSON INVOLVED.

3) KHMER. THE RTG DESIRES THAT KHMER EVACUEES STAY IN THE CENTER AT THE ROYAL THAI NAVY BASE AT UTAPAO, WITH THE EXCEPTIONS OF A FEW HIGH RANKING KHMER OFFICIALS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND STAFF. ALL DEPARTURES FROM THE CENTER SHOULD BE CLEARED WITH THE RTG AND PROCESSED THROUGH THAI IMMIGRATION.

D. ASYLUM IN THAILAND. SHOULD SOME KHMER REFUGEES DETERMINE TO SEEK ASYLUM OR RESIDENCE IN THAILAND, THEIR CASES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS.

3. DETAILS WERE ALSO DISCUSSED REGARDING THE CARE AND PROCESSING OF KHMER AT THE CENTER AT THE ROYAL THAI NAVAL BASE AT UTAPAO, AND THE FOLLOWING WAS AGREED UPON:

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A. THE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE AUTHORITIES OF THE ROYAL THAI NAVAL BASE, THAI IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS AND THE US MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL AT UTAPAO SHOULD CONTINUE. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ROYAL THAI NAVAL COMMAND, IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS WILL MAN AN OFFICE AT UTAPAO, WHICH WILL RECEIVE INFORMATION AND REQUESTS FROM US AUTHORITIES AND TAKE NECESSARY ACTIONS. INFORMATION ON THE CENTER AND ITS OPERATIONS WILL BE SUPPLIED BY THE US TO SUPREME COMMAND HEADQUARTERS (FORWARD) IN BANGKOK.

B. THE SG WILL MAINTAIN A RECORD OF ALL KHMER REFUGEES BROUGHT TO THAILAND BY THE USG. ANY PERSON PERMITTED OUTSIDE THE CENTER AT

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UTAPAO WILL FIRST BE APPROVED BY THE THAI IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES. THE USG WILL PROVIDE THE SUPREME COMMAND HEADQUARTERS (FORWARD) A LIST OF ALL KHMER REFUGEES OUTSIDE THE CENTER AT UTAPAO. THE LIST WILL INCLUDE THE NAMES, TIME OF DEPARTURE AND LOCATION OF THE EVACUEES UPON THEIR LEAVING THE CENTER.

C. GENERALLY, THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR CUSTOMS INSPECTION OF THE REFUGEES, BUT SPOT CHEIKS CAN BE CONDUCTED. REFUGEES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO POSSESS PROHIBITED ARTICLES, SUCH AS WEAPONS AND DRUGS. THE USG WILL TURN OVER ANY WEAPONS CONFISCATED TO THE RTG.

D. REQUIRED VACCINATIONS ARE BEING GIVEN BY THE RTG MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AT THE CENTER AT THE ROYAL THAI NAVY BASE AT UTAPAO.

E. EXCEPT FOR FOREIGN DIPLOMATS, THE US EMBASSY MAY ACT ON BEHALF OF EVACUEES BROUGHT TO THAILAND FROM CAMBODIA BY THE USG IN CONNECTION WITH RENEWAL OR EXTENSION OF THEIR VISAS. THE US EMBASSY MAY SEEK THE ASSISTANCE OF OTHER EMBASSIES WHOSE NATIONALS ARE AMONG THE EVACUEES.

F. NEWS MEDIA. REQUESTS FROM NEWS MEDIA PERSONNEL TO VISIT THE CENTER AT THE ROYAL THAI NAVY BASE AT UTAPAO SHOULD BE PROCESSED THROUGH THE RTG IN THE SAME MANNER AS ANY OTHER PRESS REQUEST TO VISIT THE BASE.

4. THE ABOVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES WERE TO HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE THAI CABINET FOR ITS APPROVAL ON APRIL 15. WE CONTEMPLATE NO DIFFICULTY IN THEIR ACCEPTANCE BUT WILL ADVISE SHOULD THERE BY ANY CHANGES.
MASTERS

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